



Ministry of Northern
Development and Mines

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News Release

Ministry of Northern Development and Mines



Ontario

Northern Ontario
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Fonds du patrimoine
du Nord de l'Ontario

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Province Supports Development Of New Health Care Software - #925023

McGuinty Government On The Side Of Northerners

THUNDER BAY - The McGuinty government is supporting research and development in Thunder Bay by investing in the creation of a software tool to be used in the field of health care. Thunder Bay-Atikokan MPP Bill Mauro and Thunder Bay-Superior North MPP Michael Gravelle made the announcement today on behalf of Northern Development and Mines Minister Rick Bartolucci.

"With this investment we are reaffirming our commitment to making Thunder Bay a major centre of innovation in the North," said Mauro. "This is one of many initiatives that are contributing to enhancing Thunder Bay's reputation for technological and medical research."

The Northern Ontario Heritage Fund Corporation (NOHFC) is providing \$50,000 to Med-Nexus, a Thunder Bay medical software design company, to help develop a new electronic data format that will manage and translate information across multiple platforms and applications to better serve the end user. Med-Nexus is currently focused on health content and the delivery of health information to both medical professionals and patients, in a highly personalized format.

"I am very pleased that an innovative research initiative such as this, which could have positive impacts on our health care management, is being developed in Thunder Bay," said Gravelle. "This project has the potential to create several new highly-skilled jobs and could become an important revenue generator for the company."

"Our investment in this project and many others, including Thunder Bay's Cancer and Cardiac Research Centre, clearly demonstrate our government is on the side of northerners," said Bartolucci, who is also chair of the NOHFC. "Northerners can be very proud that such important software development is happening right here in our region."

Other McGuinty government initiatives in support of northern prosperity include:

- Investing over \$8.5 million to date, from the NOHFC, to provide internships and work placements to help some 470 young northerners launch their careers in the North
- Contributing \$2.2 million to the establishment of a new cancer and cardiac research centre in Thunder

Bay

- Improving access to health care professionals, including opening the first Northern Ontario School of Medicine with a campus in Thunder Bay and funding more than 3,000 new nursing positions across Ontario.

These initiatives are part of the government's Northern Prosperity Plan. It has four pillars: Strengthening the North and its Communities; Listening to and Serving Northerners Better; Competing Globally; and Providing Opportunities for All.

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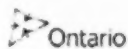
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